

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 /093 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ PAB: JHHOLMES: PD

5/11/73 EXT:21147

APPROVED BY NEA/ PAB: LBLAINGEN

NEA/ PAB: DMCOCHRAN

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R 112136 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, PK

SUBJECT: WAR CRIMES TRIALS

1. S. A. KARIM, BANGLADESH PERMREP TO UN HAS DRAWN DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO APRIL 28 TIMES OF INDIA ARTICLE REPORTING ON HONG KONG STANDARD INTERVIEW WITH GOP AMBASSADOR TO PEKING AGHA SHAHI. DESCRIBING QUOTE SECRET TALKS UNQUOTE IN NEW YORK DURING 1972 UNGA BETWEEN HIMSELF AND S. A. KARIM (USUN 3776 AND 3837), SHAHI IS QUOTED AS SAYING HE AND KARIM REACHED AGREEMENT ON PACKAGE INCLUDING RELEASE OF POWS AND RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH. PACKAGE ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE BY GOP, HE SAID, BUT QUOTE REPUDIATED UNQUOTE BY BDG. SHAHI WENT ON TO SAY IN INTERVIEW QUOTE WE ARE NOT OPPOSED TO THE TRIAL OF CERTAIN NUMBER OF PAKISTANI POWS FOR ALLEGEDLY COMMITTING ATROCITIES IN WHAT WAS THEN EAST PAKISTAN. BUT THE TRIAL

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MUST NOT BE USED FOR HUMILIATING PAKISTAN. THIS IS WHY WE AGREED IN SEPTEMBER (AT UNGA) THAT THE TRIAL SHOULD NOT BE HELD ON SOIL OF BANGLADESH UNQUOTE. SHAHI ALSO QUOTED AS HAVING TOLD INTERVIEWER THAT ABOUT 200 POWS COULD BE HELD IN BANGLADESH FOR WAR CRIMES TRIALS ON CONDITION IT WAS A QUESTION OF QUOTE JUSTICE, NOT VENGEANCE UNQUOTE.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS NOTED RATHER UNQUALIFIED STATEMENT OF AZIZ AHMED APRIL 26 REGARDING GOP POSITION ON WAR CRIMES

TRIALS AND WONDERS WHAT IF ANY LOCAL REACTION AGHA SHAHI INTERVIEW HAS GENERATED. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE090575
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JHHOLMES: PD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: N/A N/A
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730543/aaaajces.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NE
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27-Aug-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980209
Subject: WAR CRIMES TRIALS
TAGS: MOPS, BG, PK, UN, PFOR, (KARIM, S A)
To: ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005